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The attest of the Clerk of the House of Commons is evidently original.

JANUARY MEETING.

The stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Jan. 12, at eleven o'clock, in the Dowse Library; the President, the Hon. R. C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Librarian was requested to act as Secretary *pro tempore*.

The Librarian announced donations for the past month from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Antiquarian Society; the Essex Institute; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; Oberlin College; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History; Hon. John G. Baldwin; Heman S. Doane, Esq.; D. A. Harsha, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Charles M. Hovey, Esq.; William Hovey, Esq.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Hon. John G. Palfrey; Professor William B. Rogers; Moses H. Sargent, Esq.; Adjutant-General John T. Sprague, of New York; Rev. E. M. P. Wells, D.D.; Hon. Henry Wilson; Benjamin R. Winthrop, Esq.; and from Messrs. Bartlet, C. Brooks, Deane, Everett, Green, Latham, Metcalf, Quint, C. Robbins, Savage, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of the Society.

A specimen of the first printing from type, justified by machinery, was exhibited. It had been sent to the Society by Mr. Charles W. Felt, of Salem.

The President called the attention of members to a sword or cutlass lying upon the table, taken from the "Bounty," Lieutenant Bligh commander, in 1789. It was procured, some years since, at Pitcairn's Island, from a descendant of one of the mutineers.

The following communication was received from Boston, in England, soliciting contributions towards the erection, in Boston Church, of a memorial to the late Pishey Thompson, the historian of Boston:—

The contributions of Mr. Thompson's friends are respectfully solicited towards the memorial now erecting in Boston Church, which consists of a stall in the chancel, with hatchment brass, containing Mr. Thompson's arms; and also a mural Tablet in the South-west Chapel with the following inscription:—

PISHEY THOMPSON.

Natus Freistonæ xviii^{mo} Die Jun MDCCCLXXXV.

Hujus municipii olim incola,

Mox Washingtonæ apud Americanos

Civis honoratissimus;

Quæsità tandem patriâ,

Obiit Londini xxv^{mo} Die Sept. MDCCCLXII,

In Fide Christi

In spe immortalitatis.

Ne mortui nomen provinciâ periret,

Quam vivus ornavit,

Cujus etiam annales summo opere

Summâque prudentiâ composuit,

Hoc Monumentum

Plurimi amici et cognati

Ponendum curaverunt.

Subscriptions are limited to a guinea, and will be received by the Rev.^d the Vicar of Boston, or Tho.^s Wise, Esq., Boston.

Boston, 1864.

The following letter was read by the President: —

HINGHAM, Dec. 30th, 1864.

*Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, President of the Massachusetts
Historical Society.*

DEAR SIR, — Miss Elizabeth Cranch Norton, of Billerica, has placed at my disposal a collection of manuscript sermons and fragments of sermons which were in the possession of her father, Rev. Jacob Norton, of Billerica, at the time of his decease. Mr. Norton was best known as a minister of Weymouth, and successor to the Rev. William Smith, from whom probably the manuscripts were received. The daughters of Mr. Smith became the wives of the Rev. Mr. Shaw, President John Adams, and the Hon. Richard Cranch. Mr. Norton married a daughter of Mr. Cranch, who was the sister of the late Judge Cranch, of Washington. The sermons are, with few exceptions, in the French language, and are supposed to be the productions of the Rev. Andrew Le Mercier, the minister of the French Protestant Society who built a church in School Street, Boston. There is in the collection one sermon in Latin, and a few briefs of sermons in English. The Latin sermon appears to be in a handwriting similar to that of the French sermons.

The author of the English sermons is not known.

Mr. Le Mercier died in Boston, March 31, 1764, about one hundred years ago.*

If you deem the manuscripts of sufficient value, will you please to present them to the Historical Society in the name of Miss Norton?

I am, with great respect, your friend and servant,

SOLOMON LINCOLN.

A suitable acknowledgment was directed to be made for the papers which accompanied the communication of Mr. Lincoln.

* See Mass. Hist. Coll., First Series, iii. 264; Snow's History of Boston, 2d edition, 202.

The following paper, prepared by the Assistant Librarian, Dr. Appleton, relating to the Society's portrait of Sebastian Cabot, was read by the President: —

The attention of visitors to these rooms has often been attracted to the fine copy, by Chapman, of an original portrait of Sebastian Cabot, hitherto supposed to have been painted by Holbein. The copy was presented in 1838 by the late Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, then President of the Society. The original picture is not now extant, having been burned when the house of Mr. Richard Biddle, of Pittsburgh, the proprietor, was destroyed by fire. Aside from its merit as a work of art, the original possessed considerable historical interest, not only as the portrait of a navigator whose name is identified with the discovery of this portion of the Western continent, near the close of the fifteenth century, but also as having been noticed as one of the series of portraits in the gallery of Whitehall, in the time of Charles I. The portrait of Cabot is twice mentioned by Purchas, who, in the third volume of his "*Pilgrimes*" (p. 807), says: "*In the yeere 1497, Iohn Cabot, a Venetian, and Sebastian, his sonne* (these are the wordes of the great Map in his Maiesties priuie Gallerie, of which *Sebastian Cabot* is often therein called the Authour, and his picture is therein drawne, with this Title, *Effigies Sebast. Caboti Angli, filij Io. Ca. Venetiani, Militis Aurati, &c.*) *discovered that Land which no man before had attempted,*" &c. In his fourth volume (p. 1812), Purchas notices the portrait again, as follows: "Sir *Sebastian Cabot*, at the charges of *K. Henry* the seuenth, with two Caruels, in the yeere 1496 (so himselfe in *Ramusio*; the Map with his picture in the Priuy Gallery hath 1497) sailed to the *New-found-land,*" &c.: and in a marginal note, he adds, "Sir *Seb. Cabota*, his picture in the priuie gallerie at *White Hall* hath these wordes, *Effigies Seb. Cabotæ Angli filij Ioannis Cabotæ Veneti, militis aurati, &c.*; he was born at *Venice*, and serving *H. 7., H. 8., Ed. 6.,* was

accounted *English*, &c. *Galpano** saith he was borne at *Bristol*."†

It will be noticed that the inscription on the painting is given by Purchas in an abbreviated form. Upon the portrait in the possession of the Society, which is understood to be an accurate copy of the original, it is as follows:—

EFFIGIES · SEBASTIANI CABOTI
 ANGLI · FILII · IOHANIS CABOTI VENE
 TI · MILITIS · AVRATI · PRIMI INVET
 ORIS · TERRÆ NOVÆ SVB HENRICO VII. ANGL
 IÆ REGE.

In the opposite corner of the picture is the motto, "SPES MEA IN DEO EST."

The original portrait seems to have disappeared from the gallery at Whitehall soon after the death of Charles I.; and it was probably sold, with other valuable personal effects of the late king, by order of Parliament in 1648; or it may have been disposed of during the lifetime of Charles, as it is not named in a catalogue of the pictures belonging to the king, found among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and apparently drawn up for his private use.

Evelyn published in 1674 a tract entitled "Navigation and Commerce, their Original and Progress," &c., which is dedicated to Charles II., and which narrates the exploits of English discoverers and naval commanders, among whom he mentions Cabot; but, though he refers to the paintings in the Royal Gallery at Whitehall by Holbein, he does not allude to the portrait of the navigator.

* Antonio Galvano, a Portuguese writer, in his "Account of the Discoverys of the World, from their first Origin to the Year 1555: translated and published by Richard Hakluyt," London, 1601 (p. 66), says of Cabot, "In the yeere 1526 there went out of Siuill one Sebastian Cabota, a Venetian by his father, but borne at Bristol, in England, being chiefe pilote to the Emperour, with fower ships toward Maluco," &c.

† The expressions used by Purchas have sometimes been understood as referring to a portrait drawn upon the map; but the identity of the inscription here quoted with that upon the original painting would seem to indicate that the latter was intended.

Mr. Biddle, in the Appendix to his Memoir of Cabot, has given a minute description of the painting, with a notice of its disappearance from the gallery at Whitehall, and of its discovery by the late Charles Joseph Harford, Esq., of Bristol, Eng., who first saw it in 1792 at the seat of a nobleman in Scotland, and who, many years later, was enabled to obtain possession of the portrait, through the intervention of the late Sir Frederick Eden. It was afterwards purchased by Mr. Biddle, and brought to this country, where the copy was made which is now in the collection of the Society; not long after which, the original portrait was destroyed by fire, as already related.

Mr. Biddle's opinion was, that the evidence of the original painting being the work of Holbein, executed for Edward VI., was conclusive; and that its identity with the portrait described among the pictures in the Whitehall Gallery was satisfactorily established; and this conclusion has been generally accepted by those who have given the subject their attention. But more recent researches have tended to invalidate this opinion.

The biographers of Holbein have uniformly alleged that he was born at Basle in 1498; that he lived through the reign of Edward VI.; and that he died in London of the plague, in 1554. It may be stated, in reference to this tradition, that none of the contemporary chronicles mention the prevalence of the plague in that year; and the fact that Queen Mary passed in state through the city, on her way to Westminster, not long after her marriage to Philip of Spain, leads us to conclude, that London was not, at that time, visited by a pestilence, while we have evidence that the plague did prevail there in 1543.

In February, 1861, William H. Black, Esq., found, in one of the Registers of the Commissary of London, preserved in the Record Room, at St. Paul's Cathedral, the will of "John, *alias* Hans Holbein," of the Parish of St. Andrew Undershaft, who

styles himself "servaunte to the Kynges Magestye," dated 7 October, 1543, and witnessed by "Harry Maynert, Painter," among others. Administration on the estate of Holbein was granted to "John Anwarpe" or John of Antwerp, on the 29th of November following. Mr. Black laid before the Society of Antiquaries, soon after, a copy of the will, accompanied with a communication stating many of the facts above recited, which is printed in the 39th volume of the *Archæologia*.* Augustus W. Franks, Esq., has since communicated a paper to the Society on the subject of this discovery, which appears in the same volume, in which he brings forward many circumstances strongly corroborative of the opinion of Mr. Black, that the death of Holbein took place eleven years earlier than the date usually assigned to it. In this communication, the writer calls attention to the fact that in the Book of Payments of the royal household, kept by Sir Bryan Tuke, Treasurer, Holbein's name occurs no less than twenty-one times between 1538 and 1541, in which last year the volume of accounts closes; and, as Mr. Franks observes, "no notice of Holbein has been brought to light in any public document subsequent to this date." A volume containing the accounts of Sir Bryan Tuke for the years 1543-44 has been also carefully examined; but the name of Holbein does not appear in it, although other artists are mentioned. Several paintings, however, dated 1543, — including a portrait of himself, and another of Henry VIII., — are, without doubt, the productions of his pencil. Others which have been attributed to him are now generally considered as the works of some other artist.

The portrait of Cabot could not have been painted, as Mr. Biddle observes (*Memoir*, p. 325), until after his return to England in 1548, after thirty years' absence in the service of the King of Spain, when he is said to have been appointed Grand Pilot of England by Henry VIII.; as he is represented in the

painting as "in extreme age." Assuming that Holbein lived through the reign of Edward VI. until 1554, Mr. Biddle considers the proofs to be conclusive which refer the original painting to this artist. Erasmus has appended to his *Life of Holbein* a list of his principal productions; but the portrait of Cabot is not included. It must be noticed, however, that many of the works of Holbein, executed after his final removal to England, are not mentioned in this list.* The Rev. James Dallaway, in his edition of Horace Walpole's "*Anecdotes of Painting in England*," gives "an extended catalogue" of the works of Holbein then (1828) remaining in England, in which he has introduced those portraits which had been, on good authority, ascribed to him (although he does not pretend to verify, in every case, the works of this artist), but without mentioning the portrait of Cabot.

It may be observed, that many portraits, painted between 1543 and 1554, which were formerly attributed to Holbein, are now ascribed to his contemporaries or successors in the art. On this subject, Mr. Black remarks that "the discovery of Holbein's will cannot fail to draw after it some interesting consequences, as affecting the genuineness of works of art ascribed to this great master;" and Mr. Franks considers "that sufficient evidence has been brought forward to show that the testator of the will, discovered by Mr. Black, coincides with Holbein, the painter, in his name, his position, his probable nationality, his necessitous circumstances, his associates, his residence, and the pestilential season in which he died; while, by shortening the artist's career by eleven years, we account for the omission of his name from all documents between 1543 and 1554, and for the paucity and mediocrity of the works attributed to his later years."

* "Præterea Holbenius noster plurimas pinxit effigies Magnatum, virorum & feminarum, quæ passim, in Anglia præcipue, ubi maximam vitæ partem exegit, summo studio servantur.—*Desid. Erasmi Roterodami Opera Omnia. Lugd. Batav. 1703, iv. 390.*

John Gough Nichols, Esq., in a later communication on the contemporaries and successors of Holbein, says that "it is now ascertained, beyond dispute, that Holbein could have produced no works later than the year 1543;" and, in a note, he quotes an expression of Dr. Waagen, in relation to a portrait painted in 1547, who remarks that "this has quite the natural and animated air of Holbein, and *the admirable drawing of the hands which distinguishes his later pictures*; and again, in speaking of a portrait of Henry VIII., which he ascribes with much confidence to some one of the successors of Holbein, he says that "the hands" are "most strikingly true to nature." It is remarkable that Mr. Biddle, in his description of the original portrait of Cabot, speaks of the right hand as exhibiting "an admirable specimen of the painter's minute, elaborate finish."* This coincidence would seem to show that these three pictures were the work of the same artist.

In fine, if we adopt the conclusion that the recently discovered will is that of Hans Holbein, the painter, and that he died of the plague which prevailed in London in 1543, eleven years before the generally received date of his death; knowing as we do that Cabot did not return to England between the years 1517 and 1548, and that there were other painters in London, of considerable ability, during the reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Mary,—the inference would seem to be certain that the original portrait from which the copy in the gallery of the Society was made, was painted by some one of these artists, and not by Holbein.

Mr. WATERSTON read a letter written by the Rev. John Lothrop, D.D., "to the Honorable Judge Davis," found among the papers of the late Mr. Quincy, upon the subject of a remark made by President Washing-

* Memoir, p. 325.

ton, while on a visit to the College Library at Cambridge in 1789; namely, that the inscription on Dighton Rock resembled those he had seen in early life, in the wild country of Virginia, made by the Indians.

The letter was presented to the Society by Miss Quincy, to whom an acknowledgment was directed to be made; and it was referred to the Committee on the Publication of the Proceedings.*

Mr. WATERSTON moved that a copy of the Society's Collections be presented to Professor Goldwin Smith, of Oxford University.

Referred to the Standing Committee.

The President announced the death of two of the Honorary Members of the Society in the following language:—

In the little interval between the publication of the new volume of Proceedings which was laid on the table at our last meeting, and the publication of the new volume of Collections which greets us this morning, our Secretary has had occasion to strike off two more names from the list of our foreign Honorary and Corresponding Members. They are the names of John Disney, Esq., of England, and Count Jules de Menou, of France. Both of them, we have reason to think, died more than a year, perhaps several years, ago; but the fact of their decease has not been ascertained by the Secretary until now.

John Disney, of the Hyde, near Ingatestone, Essex Co., England, was elected a Corresponding Member in June, 1838. He was an accomplished and laborious antiquary, whose name is associated with the Museum Disneianum,—a fine collection of ancient curiosities now in the Fitzwilliam Museum at the

* This letter is reserved to be published hereafter with some other papers relating to Washington.

University of Cambridge, in England, and of which Mr. Disney published one or more volumes of illustrations and explanations, in royal quarto, with elaborate engravings, which received the highest encomiums of archæologists and artists.

The Count Jules de Menou was chosen an Honorary Member of this Society at our annual meeting, in 1858, at the instance of Dr. Sparks, who had then recently seen him in Europe. He was brought to this country by his mother, in 1793, at three years of age; his father having fallen a victim to the massacres of September, 1792, at Lyons. He was educated in Baltimore, and resided there for many years of his life. He was Secretary of the French Legation at Washington, while M. Hyde de Neuville was Minister, — about forty years ago; and, after the departure of that Minister, the Count de Menou was, for some time, *Chargé d’Affaires*. He soon afterwards returned to his native land, where he resided for more than thirty years before his death. He took a warm and lively interest in every thing that related to the prosperity and progress of American institutions, and cherished the feeling of an adopted son towards the State of Maryland, where he had received his earliest protection and education. But he was especially interested, too, in our early New-England history, from the fact that he was of the same family with that Charles de Menou d’Aulnay-Charnisay, the Governor of Acadie, in 1644, whose controversy with La Tour, and whose correspondence with the Massachusetts Colony, growing out of that controversy, form so considerable a part of the history of that period. In June, 1859, Count de Menou sent over, as a present to our library, a valuable collection of ancient American maps, in a volume entitled “Atlas des Colonies Anglaises en Amérique;” and from time to time he has often transmitted other smaller contributions to our library. When I saw him in Paris, in the summer of 1859, his apartments were full of interesting souvenirs of his American friends, and he was contemplating some new donations to the Historical Societies

of Maryland and of Massachusetts. But, on returning to Paris in the summer of 1860, I found him broken down in health and spirits, and learned that he had taken refuge in one of those private religious hospitals, where aged men of the highest respectability, but of moderate means, often find relief for the solitude and infirmities of age. I have here a little volume which he gave me, when I visited him in that hospital, and which I find inscribed, "Given me on Sunday, 12 August, 1860, at the Maison St. Jean de Dieu, Paris, by Comte Jules de Menou." It is entitled "*Preuves de l'Histoire de Menou*," and it contains many documents connected with the old D'Aulnay and La Tour controversy of 1644. The volume concludes with some account of the Count himself, at the close of which is the following passage: "Plus tard et rentré dans la vie privée, le Comte Jules de Menou fut vivement touché de voir venir à lui un descendant des Winthrop, qui, ayant appris sa présence à Paris, voulait renouer, au nom de sa famille, les bons rapports qui, deux cents ans auparavant, avaient existé entre son aieul, Président des Colonies Unies de la Nouvelle Angleterre, et Charles de Menou d'Aulnay-Charnisay."

It is only within a few days that I have heard of the Count's death, though I now learn that it took place a year or more ago. I am glad, even at this late day, to pay this passing tribute of respect to the memory of one who was himself so good a friend to our country, and whose name has such interesting associations with the early history of New England.

The President appointed Judge Hoar to write a Memoir of Chief Justice Shaw, and Mr. Dana to write a Memoir of the Hon. Rufus Choate.

The President announced a new volume of Collections, vol. vii. of the Fourth Series, which had just been laid upon the table; and stated that it had been prepared

under the immediate charge of Mr. Deane, one of the Committee of Publication. It embraced a continuation of the "Winthrop Papers." The thanks of the Society were voted to the Publishing Committee for their labor.

On motion of Mr. PAIGE, it was voted that the same Committee be requested to publish another volume of selections from the "Winthrop Papers," whenever they may deem it expedient.

The Librarian submitted to the inspection of the Society a manuscript book prepared in 1602 by William Smith, "Rouge Dragon," a Pursuivant in the Herald's College, London, containing 4,400 coats of arms. It had been for a long time in the possession of the family of the late Governor Gore, the second President of this Society. Its title is "Promptuarium Armorum."

John Forster, Esq., of London, was nominated a Corresponding Member.

Mr. SIBLEY presented some memoranda relating to the erection of the President's House in Cambridge, in 1726.

E R R A T A.

- Page 31, line 10, for "doctrine" read "doctorate."
 " 89, " 19, for "MDCCCLXXXV" read "MDCCLXXXV."
 " 139, " 5, for "Pfrote." read "Pforte."
 " 202, " 24, for "yⁿ" read "y^u."
 " 253, " 3, for "Oberlausitzischen" read "Oberlausitzische."
 " 254, " 7, for "C. F. Duncklee" read "C. T. Duncklee."

ERRATA IN THE "ANDREWS LETTERS."

At the time the "Andrews Letters," printed in this volume, were passing through the press, the principal part of the original manuscripts from which the transcript for the printer was made, and which had been retained by the editor of the letters, in New York, for comparison with the proof-sheets, were unfortunately lost or mislaid; so that the main reliance in reading the proofs was upon the "copy." Since the printing of the letters, the missing originals have been recovered, and are now in the Library of the Society. They have been carefully compared with the printed sheets, and the following "errata" are all that have been detected which in any way affect the sense. A few of the errors probably resulted from a misreading of the copy.

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| <p>Page 322, line 12, for "own" read "old."
 " 323, " 27, for "off" read "of."
 " 324, " 27, for "Mr. Williams" read
 "Doctt Williams."
 " 325, " 3, for "take" read "send."
 " 328, " 24, for "for" read "or."
 " 329, " 31, for "in" read "i. e."
 " 330, " 4, for "transport" read "trans-
 ports."
 " " 14, for "masters" read "coast-
 ers."
 " " 19, for "Charles river" read
 "Charles town."
 " 331, " 9, insert "as" after "are."
 " 332, " 21, for "two" read "four."
 " " 29, for "Girdley" read "Grid-
 ley."
 " 333, " 1, for "Slyde" read "Llyde."
 " " 17, for "military" read "high-
 way."
 " 334, " 30, for "wounds" read "wound."
 " 336, " 3, for "carriers" read "car-
 men."</p> | <p>Page 339, line 5, for "Starlin" read "Star-
 tin."
 " 340, " 14, for "guns" read "gun."
 " 343, " 7, fill the blank with "Bosengr."
 " 344, " 19, insert "up money" after
 "take."
 " " 34, for "carriers" read "car-
 men."
 " 345, " 16, for "on" read "in."
 " " 19, for "press'd" read "pre-
 fer'd."
 " " 34, insert "appliⁿ of" after
 "without."
 " " 39, insert "after" between
 "day" and "he."
 " 346, " 34, insert a parenthesis after
 "line."
 " 348, " 14, for "Mr. Molineaux" read
 "Wm Molineaux."
 " 349, " 7, for "have" read "bare"
 ["bear."
 " " 16, for "member" read "num-
 ber."</p> |
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